

## **Options for post-publication discussions**

### **1. Scope**

This policy applies to all papers published in Pomorstvo, and covers reader or author-initiated commentary or critique after publication (“post-publication discussion”); formal mechanisms to correct, update, clarify or withdraw published content (erratum, corrigendum, expression of concern, retraction) when appropriate; the process for handling formal critiques of published material, including dispute resolution and linking of responses.

### **2. Principles**

Pomorstvo encourages open, constructive, and evidence-based discussion of published articles, in the form of letters or comments submitted to the journal. Authors of the original article will normally be offered an opportunity to respond to commentary or critique in the journal, enabling balanced discussion. The journal will publish such correspondence (critique and response) in a timely manner, provided it meets the journal’s criteria for scholarly contribution. The journal may decide whether submitted letters/comments require peer review (especially if new data are involved) or may be handled as correspondence at the Editor’s discretion.

### **3. Contact**

The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for managing post-publication discussions and corrections. On receipt, the Editor-in-Chief will acknowledge receipt, document the critique, and proceed to initial assessment.

### **4. Initial assessment**

The Editor-in-Chief will determine whether the critique meets editorial standards (e.g., points to evidence or alternative interpretation, is within a reasonable time-frame, is not purely personal or defamatory), invite the authors of the original article to respond, giving them a clear deadline for reply, decide whether the critique and response will both be published (together) or if the critique alone suffices and proceed to the investigation and decision.

### **6. Investigation and decision-making**

If errors, flaws, omissions, or ethical issues come to light after publication, Pomorstvo will apply formal mechanisms to amend the record. These may include:

- Erratum/Corrigendum: for inadvertent errors or publisher/author mistakes that do not invalidate conclusions,
- Expression of Concern: when serious issues are raised but the investigation is incomplete, to alert readers to possible problems,
- Retraction: when findings are unreliable (due to error or misconduct), duplicate publication, or other serious breaches.

All published notices of correction, expression of concern, or retraction will be clearly identified and linked to the original article and will be freely accessible.

#### 7. Confidentiality, record-keeping & transparency

All documentation will be maintained securely by the journal for at least 5 years. While the journal will protect the confidentiality of individuals involved, any outcomes that affect the published literature will be publicly noted and linked to the original article.